OUR COMMONWEALTH.

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PROFESSOR BRYCE'S NEW BOOK.

THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH. By James Bryce, M. P. for Aberdeen. Two vois., large 12mo., pp. XIX, 750, VII. 743. Macmillan & Co.

This work will be invaluable, not only to the foreign student who wishes to understand the remarkable experiment in government which the people of the United States are making, but also to the American citizen who wishes something more then a superficial knowledge of the political system under which he lives, and of the differences between it and those of other countries. It is true, as Professor Bryce says, in his introduction, that "during the last fifty years no author has proposed to himself the aim of portraying the whole political system of the country in its practice as well as its theory, of explaining, not only the National Government, but the State governments; not only the Constitution, but the party system; not only the Constitution, but the ideas, temper, habits of the sovereign people." But this is only as much of the truth as the author's modesty would permit him to tell. The fact is that no writer has ever attempted to present so comprehensive an account of our political system, founded upon such length of observation, enriched with so great a mass of detail, and so thoroughly practical in its character. De Tocque-ville's book, while it undoubtedly rendered a great service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will long continue to be read, was a service, and will lo ville's book, while it undoubtedly rendered a great service, and will long continue to be read, was a

the President, of the Federal courts to the other

branches of the Government, and the origin,

growth and development of the Constitution-all

these are treated with great fullness; but the

style of the work, even in the discussion of

questions of the most abstract character, is popu-

lar and exceedingly interesting. Part II subjects

the State Government to the same examination.

Part III discusses the history of political parties

and their present methods and characteristics.

Volume II opens with a full account of the party

answers the question so often asked in foreign

countries as to the real extent of corruption in

our politics; and describes conventions, Presi-

dential campaigns, etc. Part IV concerns itself with public opinion, its extraordinary power in American affairs, its ways of showing itself, etc. On this subject Professor Bryce's views make an interesting contrast to those of De Tocqueville, Part V gives careful sketches of the Tweed and Philadelphia Gas Rings and Kearneyism, and deals philosophically with American democracy considered as a whole, its supposed faults, and those it actually possesses. Part VI takes up

social institutions, the bar, railroads, Wall Street,

system, describes machines, rings and b

the position of women, the University, etc. The reader is strongly predisposed in favor of the work by the discovery that the author's conclusions are the result of long and patient observation, and by his frank confession that he has often been obliged to 'revise them. "When . first visited America, eighteen years ago," he says, I brought home a swarm of bold generalizations. Half of them were thrown overboard after a second visit in 1881. Of the half that remained, some were dropped into the Atlantic when I returned across it after a third visit in 1833 and 1884; and although the two later journeys gave birth to some new wiews, these views are fewer and more discreetly cautious than their departed sisters of 1870." ader does not need to go far to discover that while Professor Bryce finds much to criticise, and even to condemn, his predominant feeling is one of great admiration for the results that have been achieved under our system and of entire hopefulness for the future; and that he has the breadth of view to enable him to perceive how erroneous deductions, based wholly upon European experience, are likely to be. "America excites an admiration which must be felt upon the spot to be understood. The hopefulness of her people communicates itself to one who lives among them, and makes him perceive that the graver faults of politics may be far less dangerous there than they would be in Europe. A hundred times in writing this work have I been disheartened by the facts I was stating; a hundred times has the recollection of the abounding strength and vitality of the nation chased away these tremors." Professor Bryce was conspicuously qualified to carry this important work to a successful conclusion. As Parliament for Aberdeen, he possesses the com-bination of scholarly and practical characteristics most needed for a correct understanding of the American political system. What is only less remarkable than the comprehensiveness and amplitude of the work, is its accuracy in statements of fact. To aid him in securing this, he has had the co-operation of a number of our public men, and Messrs. Seth Low and Frank J. Goodnow have written separate chapters of the work. Professor Bryce's deductions are his own, and may not always be accepted, but the freedom of the book

The views of such an observer upon this great variety of topics present so many points of interest that a choice among them is difficult. There is a good deal said, not only upon the legal, but the social, relations of the President

from errors of detail is remarkable in a work of

legal, but the social, relations of the President:

To a European observer, weary of the slavish obsequiousness and lip-deep adminion with which the members of reigning families are treated on the other side of the Atlantic, fawned on in public, and carped at in private, the social relations of an American President to his people are eminently refreshing. There is a great respect for the office, and a corresponding respect for the man as the holder of the office, if he has done nothing to degrade it. He is followed about and feted, and in every way treated as the first man in the company; but the spirit of equality which rules the country has sunk too deep into every American nature for him to expect to be addressed with bated breath and whispering reverence. It begins to be remarked in Europe that monarchy, which used to be admitted politically dangerous, but socially useful, has now, since its claws have been cut, become politically valuable, but of more doubtful social utility. In the United States the most suspicious between-and there are Democrats who complain that the office of President is too monarchical—cannot accuse the chief maristracy at having tended to form a court, much less to creat those evils which thrive in the atmosphere of European courts. No President dare violate social decorum as European sovereigns have so often done. If he did, he would be the first to suffer.

This interesting comparison is made of the

Senate with the two houses of Parliament:

As respects ability, the Senate cannot be profitably compared with the English House of Lords, because that assembly consists of some twenty eminent and and as many ordinary men attending regularly, with a multitude of undistinguished persons who, though members, are only occasional visitors, and take no real share in the deliberations. Setting the Senate beside the House of Commons, one may say that the average natural capacity of its seventy-six members is not above that of the seventy-six best men in the English House. There is more variety of talent in the inter, and a greater breadth of culture. On the other hand, the Senate excels in legal knowledge as well as in practical sthrewdness. The House of Commons contains more men who could give a good address on a literary or historical subject, the senate more who could either deliver a rousing popular hataugue or manage the business of a great trading company, these being the forms of capacity commonest among Congressional politicians.

This comparison is repeated with the House of Representatives: Senate with the two houses of Parliament:

of Representatives:

Watching the House at work, and talking to the members in the lobbles, an Englishman naturally asks himself how the intellectual quality of the body compares with that of the House of Commons. His American friends have prepared him to expect a

narked inferiority. They are fond of running down Summing up his reflections upon the form of

service, and will long continue to be read, was a philosophic treatise upon democracy in the abstract, with illustrations drawn from this country, rather than a scientific analysis and exposition of our political history and methods. Professor Bryce's chief aim has been to furnish the student with the facts from which to draw his own conclusions, though a considerable share of the work is devoted to his observations, not only upon the systems of government, National, State and local, and party methods, but also upon many significant features in our social life having an important bearing upon a proper comprehension of the American character. As a result, we have here a storchouse of political information regarding America, such as no other writer, American or other, has ever provided in one work. The first volume is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the National Government, making an elaborate showing of its nature and relations, the powers and duties of the President, the Cabinet, etc. Each House of Congress is separately treated with great fullness of detail, the contrast with the parliamentary systems of other countries is pointed out, and merits and demerits, according to the author's point of view, are frankly stated. The relations of Congress to the President, of the Federal courts to the other branches of the Government, and the origin, leading the first of the perisamentary systems of other countries is pointed out, and merits and demerits, according to the author's point of view, are frankly stated. The relations of Congress to the President in the contrast with the parliamentary systems of other countries is pointed out, and merits and demerits, according to the author's point of view, are frankly stated. The relations of congress to the President of the parliamentary systems of other countries is pointed out, and merits and demerits, according to the author's point of view, are frankly stated. The relations of congress to the pressure of local selected on the professor and the selected on t government, Professor Bryce says:

He finds many reasons why more of the best men do not go into politics. The want of a social and commercial capital is one. To live in Paris or London is of itself an attraction to many Englishmen and Frenchmen, but this can hardly be said of Washington. There is no class to which public or political life comes naturally, as it still does to many in Great Britain and France. A man seeking to enter the higher walks of public | eral or State legislation, or in the action of publife has more than 500 seats for which he may stand. But in the United States he is practically confined to his own district, and rotation is often the rule. There are more brilliant openings in other careers, especially to men without capital. The railroad kings, for example, have of late years swayed the fortunes of American citizens more than the politicians. The fascination of politics in England is largely a social fascination. But in America a Congressman, a State Governor, a city Mayor gains nothing socially by his position. Professor Bryce purposely omits one alleged ground why many of the best men do not go into politics—namely, the bad company the best people would have to keep—and makes this significant remark:

"In every country a politician has to associate" "In every country a politician has to associate with men whom he despises and distrusts. And those whom he must despise and distrust are sometimes those whose so-called social rank is highestthe sons and nephews of great nobles." He even declines to consider the attacks of the newspapers as of much importance, aithough he thinks " that there is recklessness in the American press, and want of refinement in politics generally." Far more weight he finds to be laid upon the difficulties which the organization of the party system throws

in the way of men who seek to enter public life. Whenever an intelligent Englishman and American get to talking politics, the chances are that it will not be more than five minutes before the question of American corruption comes to the surface. "No impression regarding American politics," Professor Bryce says, "is more generally the body politic, can remain long generally the body politics." "No impression regarding American poldiffused in Europe than that contained in the question which the traveller who has returned from the United Stafes becomes so weary of being asked, Isn't everybody corrupt there?"

'Isn't everybody corrupt there?"

It is an impression for which the Americans themselves, with their airy way of talking about their own country, their fondness for broad effects, their enjoyment of a good story and humorous pleasure in exaggerations generally, are largely responsible. European visitors who, generally belonging to the wealthier classes, are generally reactionary in politics, and glad to find occasion for disparaging popular government, eagorly catch up and repeat the stories they are told in New-York or San Francisco. European readers take literally the highly colored pictures of some American novels and assume that the descriptions there given of certain men and groups inside politics"—descriptions legitimate enough in a novel-hold true of all men and groups following that unsavory trade. Europeans, moreover, and Englishmen certainly not less tian other Europeans, have a useful knack of forgetting their own shortcomings when contemplating those of their neighbors; so you may hear men wax cloquent over the deprayity of transatiantic politicians who will sail very near the wind in giving deceptive pledres to their own constituents, who will support flacrant jobs done on behalf of their own party, who will accept favors from and dine with, and receive at their own houses financial speculators and members of the Legislature whose alms are just as base and whose standard is just as low as those of the worst Congressman that ever came to push his fortune in Washington. s those of the worst Congressman that ever cam sh his fortune in Washington.

Professor Bryce admits the extreme difficulty of estimating the amount of corruption that prevails in our politics. "If a native American does not know, as few do, how widely it is spread, it was much more difficult for him to learn. His impressions were, therefore, submitted to the judgment of several fair-minded Americans, and pronounced substantially correct. As in every other portion of the book, one is struck in this discussion with Professor Bryce's desire to be impartial. His statements will not, perhaps, be universally accepted in all their details, but writer sums up as follows:

writer sums up as follows:

If this is not a bright picture, neither is it so dark as that which most Europeans have drawn, and which the loose language of many Americans canction. What makes it seem dark is the contrast between the deficiencies which the Government shows in this respect, and the excellence on the one hand of the frame of the Constitution, on the other of the tone and sentiment of the people. The European reader may, however, complain that the picture is vague in its outlines. I cannot make it more definite. The facts are not easy to ascertain, and it is hard to say what standard one is to apply to them. In the case of America men are inclined to apply an ideal standard, because she is a republic, professing to have a new departure in politics and setting before her a higher fleat than most European monarchies. Yet it must be remembered that in a new and large country, where the temptations are encomous and the persons tempted have many of them no social position to forfest, the conditions are not the most favorable to virtue. If, recognizing the fact that the path of the politician is in all countries thickly set with snares, we leave ideals out of sight and try America by an actual standard, we shall find that while her legislative bodies fall below the level of purity maintained in England and Germany, probably also in France and Italy, her Federal and state administration, in spite of the evils flowing from an uncertain tenure, is not, in point of integrity, at this moment sensibly inferior to the administrations of European countries.

Professor Bryce recurs again and again to the excessive candor of Americans in dealing with their own faults-a species of exaggeration which gives false impressions to foreigners. The English, as he says, have two morals for public life-the one conventional or ideal, the other actual. The conventional assumes the average British statesman to be patriotic and conscientious, and treats every fault as a dereliction from a high standard of duty. The actual moral heard in the lobbies of the legislative chambers or the smoking rooms of clubs is a very different affair. It regards the bribery of voters as an offence only when detection has followed, and smiles at elec-

There is almost too little of make-believe about Americans in public writings as well as in private talk, and their dislike to humbug, hypocrisy, and what they call English Phariseeism, not only tends to laxity, but has made them wrong in the eyes of the Old World their real moral sensitiveness. Accustomed to see constant lip service rendered to a virtue not intended to be practised, Europeans naturally assume that things are in the United States several shades darker than they are painted, and interpret frankness as cynleism. Were American politics judged by the actual and not the tenventional standard of England, the contrast between the demerits of the politicians and the merits of the people would be less striking.

In no country, he declares, is public opinion so powerful as in the United States; in no coun-

so powerful as in the United States; in no country can it be so well studied. The American press seems to him to serve the expression and subserve the formation of public opinion more fully than does the press of any part of the European continent, and not less fully than that of England. Among the national characteristics moulding public opinion he finds good-nature, kindliness, humor, hopefulness, an unbounded faith in the people and in a democratic system of government, a higher average of knowledge than in any other country, a high moral and religious average. Setting aside the rabble of a few great cities and the negroes of the South, the average of temperance, chastity, truthfulness and general probity is higher than in any of the great nations of Europe. Religion apart, he thinks the Americans an unreverential people, by which he does not mean that they are irreverent, or have not a great capacity for hero worship. He found the people really too busy to think much about politics. He found a want of serious and sustained thinking, which, he admits, belongs to the average man everywhere. He found them unsettled, frequently migrating, yet as-sociative and sympathetic. He found them changeful, not fickle, but emotional, and yet conservative. Public opinion is not governed by classes in the European sense. There is no general opposition of upper and lower classes. There is no one class or set of men whose special function it is to form and lead opinion. politicians certainly do not. Public opinion leads them." Still less is there any governing class. "The Nation is not an aggregate of classes. They exist within it, but they do not make it You are not struck by their political significance as you would be in any European country. The people is one people, although it occupies a wider territory than any other Nation, and is composed of elements from many quarters."

Professor Bryce doubts the correctness of De Tocqueville's account of the tyranny of the majority in this country, even at the time it was written. He is inclined to suspect that the French writer, struck by the enormous power of general opinion, may have attributed too much of the submissiveness which he observed to the active coercion of the majority, and too little to the tendency of the minority to acquiesce, which Pro-fessor Bryce finds so remarkable a feature of American life. "In no other country," he says, "does the beaten minority take a defeat so well." He does not find such a tyranny either in Fedlie opinion and sentiment outside of the sphere If social persecution exists in the America of to-day," he says, " it is only in a few dark corners." No one is made to suffer for holding aloof from the churches, as he admits one might suffer in an English village.

The principal weakness he finds in govern ment by public opinion, as we have it in this country, is that there seems to be no machinery available for its expression. The result is that vital decisions have usually hung fire longer than they would have been likely to do in European countries. There is also a long-suffering tolerance toward incompetence and misconduct, which strikes European observers. But public opinion, as it need hardly be said, succeeds in many respects. Too much stress, Professor Bryce says, cannot be laid on the fact that the strong point of the American system, the dominant fact of the situation, is the healthfulness of public opinion, and the control which it exerts. No serious cvils, no rankling sore in when disclosed it is half destroyed a great capacity of hero-worship among the Americans, in spite of the supposed levelling tendencies of democracy:

I doubt if there be any country where a really brilliant man, confident of his own strength, and adding the charm of a striking personally to the gift of popular eloquence, would find an easier path to fame and power, and would exert more influence over the minds and emotions of the multitude.

No passage of the work is more interesting

than that in which the author discusses the supposed faults of democracy with a view of discovering whether they exist to any marked extent in the United States; and the faults which he believes do in reality exist. Under the first head he renders a verdict of acquittal on almost every count. He does not find weakness and want of promptitude, nor fickleness and instability, nor insubordination and contempt for authority, characteristic of the American people. He has even something to say in favor of lynch law under certain circumstances. Speaking of the familiar bugbear of military despotism, he says: " Caesarism is the last danger likely to menace America. In no nation is civil order more stable. None is more averse to the military spirit. No political system would offer a greater resistance to an attempt to create a standing army or centralize the administration." He finds that instead of being jealous of greatness, intellectual eminence excites more admiration among the Americans than in Europe. They have no passion for destroying old institutions, but are, on the contrary, tenacious in their conservatism, and the danger that they may be misled by demagogues does not seem to him at all important. Passing to the true faults of American democracy, the author sums them up as follows:

them up as follows:

What are the consequences which we may expect to follow from these characteristics of democracy, and these conditions under which it is forced to work?

Firstly a certain commonness of mind and tone, a want of dignity and elevation in and about the conduct of public affeirs, an insensibility to the nobler aspects and finer responsibilities of National life. Secondly, a certain apathy among the luxurious classes and fasticious minds, who find themselves of no more account than the ordinary voter, and are disgusted by the superficial vulgarities of public life. Thirdly, a want or knowledge, tact and judgment in the details of legislation, as will as in administration, with an inadequate recognition of the difficulty of these kinds of work, and of the worth of special experience and skill in dealing with them. Eccause it is incompetent, the multitude will not feel its incompetence, and will not seek or defer to the councels of

perience and skill in dealing with them. Because it is incompetent, the mulifitude will not feel its incompetence, and will not seek or defer to the councels of those who possess the requisite capacity.

Fourthly, laxify in the management of public business. The persons entrusted with such business being only average men, thinking themselves, and thought of by others as average men, with a deficient sense of ineign in the public finds present, in cases where persons of a more enlarged view, and with more of a social reputation to support, would remain incorruptible. To repress such derelictions of duty is every citizen's duty, but for that reason it is in large communities ant to be neglected. Thus the very causes which implant the mischief favor its growth.

The tone of public life is lower than one expects to find it in so great a nation. There

expects to find it in so great a nation There is an abundance of patriotism, but it does not bear its appropriate fruit in raising the conception of public office, of its worth and dignity. Public officials not assuming themselves to be individually wiser, stronger or better than their fellow citizens, and so far from magnifying their offices and making them honorable, seem anxious to show that they are not mere creatures of the popular vote. There is a lack of trained statesmen in public life. The comparative indifference to political life of the educated and wealthy classes is an evil, but largely ascribable, when detection has followed, and smiles at cleotion piedges. But America—
so far from covering things up, as the English do,
professing a high standard and applying it rigo only
to other countries, but leniently to her own edspring,
gives an exceptionally free course to publicity of all
kinds, and allows witters and speakers to paint the
faults of her politicians in strong, not to say exaggerated, colors. Such excessive candor is not an unmixed gain. It removes the restraint which the
maintenance of a conventional standard imposes

sees no danger of mob rule, which has always been charged against democracy, but rather more danger of plutocracy.

The strength of American democracy lies in its stability, for there is hardly any other country in which there is no thought on the part of any considerable number of overturning existing institutions; in a law-abiding habit-what Professor Bryce calls " a legality of view" - largely induced by living under rigid Constitutions; a broad simplicity in political ideas, and courageous consistency in carrying them out; a very slight reliance on government officials; the lack of strife between privileged and unprivileged orders, the rich and poor; a remarkable moral vigor illustrated in the establishment and support by private means of churches, seminaries, religious charities, colleges and universities to, which there is no parallel elsewhere; the homogeneity of the people; a sense of fraternity, giving the employer of labor a keener sense of duty to those whom he employs than employers have in Europe. "Wealthy and powerful," he admits, " such a country must have been under any form of government. But the speed with which she has advanced and the employment of the sources of wealth which diffused cemtort among millions of families may be placed to the credit of stimulative freedom."

One of the minor topics dealt with is American

One of the minor topics deait with is American conceit.

Fifty, or even forty years ago, the conceit of this people was a by-word. It was not only self-conscious, but obtrusive and aggressive. Every visitor satirized it, Dickens most keenly of all, in forgiving whom the Americans gave the strongest proof of their good carure. Doubtless all nations are either vain or proud, or both: and those not least who receive least recognition from their neighbors. A nation could hardly stand without this element to support its self-reliance; though when pushed to the extreme, it may, as happens with the Turks, make national ruin the more irretrievable. But American conceit has been steadily declining as the country has grown older, more aware of its frue strength, more respected by other countries. There was less conceit after the Civil War than before, though the Civil War had revealed elements of greatness unexpected by foreigners; there is less now than there was at the close of the Civil War. An impartially rigorous censor from some other planet might say of the Americans that they are at this moment less piggishly supercilious than the Germans, less restlessly pretentious than the French, less pharisalcally self-satisfied than the English, Among the upper or better educated classes, glorification has died out, except of course in Fourth of July and other public addresses, when the scream of the National eagle must be heard. One sometimes finds it replaced by undue self-depreciation, with lamentations over the want of culture, the decline of faith, or the corruption of politics.

This book ought to render the important ser-

This book ought to render the important service to this country of removing many misconceptions that exist in other countries, and especially in England, regarding the government and the political and social characteristics of the American people. On this side of the Atiantic it will be esteemed for its cordial apprecia-tion of all that is bright and hopeful in American life, as well for the learning, ability and skill with which the political institutions of the United States have been portrayed. There is much necessarily in the work that is only of passing interest to the American, but until some one of our own people supercedes it with a better work, especially devoted to the exposition of our various systems of government, it will remain a standard even for the American reader.

that is, I think I can discover the missing links of the rule governing the arrangement of the words in the rule perfectly I should have avoided many of the criticisms as to the language of the cipher narrative, and should have brought the whole thing down to an absolute demonstration. But the spirit of the critics seemed to be not to give me any credit for what I had dene, but to denounce me for what I had not done. I don't care a sixpence about what anybody says about my book or myself. I am right, and umo will justify me."

tiser" in response to a query as to what theme offers the greatest scope to the coming American novel: I am too much overworked to add anything of interest to your 'literary supplement.' But I will say this respecting your characteristic Boston conundrum: It never has occurred to me that a specific theme is essential to a novel-which I take to be a work of the creative imagination, and neither a sermon nor a school-composition. And I suppose the coming novel will be written by a novellst, and not by one who is, first of all, a propagandist or refermer.

Mrs. Mona Caird, the woman who started the discussion of "Is Marriage a Failure?" will probably find in that fact the means of a "boom" for her forthcoming novel. The book presents the history of the daughter of a country squire and his peritanical wife, who, from different motives, induce her daughter to marry the son of a neighboring proprietor. Matrimontal misery is indicated

Sainte-Beuve once said to Taine in the heat of an historical discussion: "Taisez-vous, Taine! You know books, but you know nothing about men."

A Montreal lawyer owns the only existing copy of the first book published in Canada. It is Archbishop Languet's catechism bearing date 1705.

ANNIE KILBURN.

MR. HOWELLS'S NEW BOOK ANNIE KILBURN, By W. D. Howells, 12mo, pp.

331. Harper & Brothers.

ar. Howells's last novel exhibits the influence of many disturbing elements upon the mind of the writer. What they call the "zeitgeist" in Germany is strongly reflected in the pages of 'Annie Kilburn"; and the lenses through which current social phenomena are viewed are not those of optimism. The heroine is a not quite young woman, who, after a long residence abroad, returns orphaned to her old home. This is a New-England manufacturing town in a transition state between colonial Puritanism and nobody knows what. Annie Kilburn stands for that peculiarly modern condition of mind in which dissatisfaction with social relations as they exist is rather paralyzed than tempered by the operation of a practical sense which teaches the futility of all the remedial agencies that suggest themselves. She strongly yearns to do good; to better the state of the poor; to equalize social conditions. With a woman's impulsiveness she begins many things; with a New-England woman's intellectual alertness she quickly realizes the uselessness of of optimism. The heroine is a not quite young things; with a New-England woman's intellectual alertness she quickly realizes the uselessness of her experiments. But she is not alone in the desire to right wrongs and remove abuses. An desire to right wrongs and remove abuses. An atmosphere of restlessness, doubt and perplexity atmosphere of restlessness atmosphere of restlessness atmosphere of restlessness atmosphere atmosp formers and hypocrites and feeble essays at amelioration undertaken in dense misapprehension of what is really needed.

Tolstoi dashed with Anarchy might be said to

be the most conspicuous flavors in the book. Annie Kilburn herself is a would-be philanthropist, who feels her hands tied by inevitable circumstances. The Rev. Mr. Peck is an evangelical dreamer who lacks administrative and co-ordinating power, and drifts into a deadly quarrel with the respectable hypocrites of his congregation. Gerrish, the head and type of these, is a vulgar, purse-proud, greedy and overbearing tradesman, who demands "the promises" from his pastor, and is furious when the latter attempts to apply the teachings of Christ to conduct. Putney is an irregular genius, who is strongly drawn to the side of all the protestants against modern social conditions; who, as a inwyer, prefers to defend boycotting Knights of Labor, and who is the opposite of the Gerrish tribe, Bohemian against Philistine, a natural " revolte," in short. Then there is Mrs. Munger, the social leader, who manages everybody, and wishing to start a social union for the benefit of the working people, proposes to raise funds by an outdoor theatrical performance, followed by a supper and dence from which the beneficiaries are to be excluded. Mr. Howells's art has never been more finely displayed than in the handling of the feminine elements of "Annie Kilburn." whole episode of Mrs. Munger's call upon her friends for the purpose of gathering opinions as to the supper and dance plan is described with consummate humor and insight. The visit of the three former girl friends to Annie upon her return from Rome is perhaps equally good. There is marvellous perception and skilful description in all this; but there is also a certain want of

mer weites systems of government, it will remain a standard even for the American reader.

LITERLARY NOTES.

INTERNATION STATES

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diner, however, was very pleasant, and would have een pleasanter, like every moment of the visit, if had not realized all the time that I was obliged to return to London that night.

The so much of a lottery, poor human nature likes to make believe, in its moments of romance, that the trials and troubles cease with the trials and troubles cease with the music of the Wedding March. To this heary and pathetic idealization Mr. Howells has in the present instance deferred, and Annie kilburn passes from our sight leaning upon the staiwart and devoted arm of Dr. Morrell. This is better than the favorite practice of the author—of severing the relations between his characters and the public abruptly and capriciously, and leaving everything in uncertainty, with a slight but obvious blas toward the least cheerful probabilities. It would be still better, however, if Mr. Howells could free his mind from the dark shadows which to evidently depress it; if he could look upon the secial situation more hopefully and ubstain from following the tendencies which impel him more and more toward possinistic views. No doubt there are many insoluble problems, but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; which we have the same time of the same and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; and the same and fools; but then there always have been hypocrites and fools; and the three are many hypocrites and fools; and the trief of the first part of

LITTLE MARY CECILIA BRUNOLD

Has just been cured of the worst Eczema ever seen by the doctors who treated her. From head to feet a mass of diseased skin. Several physicians, a medical college, and all remedies fail. Cured by Cutionra Remedies.

My little daughter, Mary Cecilia Brunold, was afflicted with the worst case of eccema ever seen by the doctors who treated her. She was literally covered from head to foot with scabs. These physicians tried their best to care her, but I believe they were only experimenting. They kept on experimenting for over ten months, but instead of getting better the child got worse, and I did not know what course to pursue. My wife took her, after we had paid all we could afford for medical treatment, to a medical college where there were some twonty or thirty doctors as

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gracious to stand off and find fault, but the object of

gracious to stand off and find fault, but the object of the Psychical Society is one in which I have the most intense interest, and whatever conceit and assumption of superiority there may be in the remark, I must say that I cannot look upon their proceedings with anything but a feeling of irritation at the incompetence of the whole business. Still I am ready to allow that the subject is one of which the investigation is extremely intricate and difficult.

Professor Royce, who is a very clever man, read the langest paper of the evening, about which it would not be fair to speak definitely without seeing the whole of it, as its length obliged Professor Royce to omit large portions of it; but the general impression from it is that it is devoted largely to the antiquated device of inventing abstruse sounding names for perfectly obvious and well known facts. It is difficult to see, for instance, how the "pseudo-presentiments" are anything but the common enough mistake, with which every one is familiar, of confounding time to the extent of considering impressions received from an event as presentiments felt beforehand. Everybody knows how frequently people are sure that they foresaw events, anticipated expressions, and so on, and it is hard to understand where the distinction lies between Professor Royce's "pseudo-presentiments" and these common phenomena. However, nothing is more easy than to misjudge a fragmentary paper.

GEORGE MEREDITH AT HOME.

HOW HE LOOKS, TALKS AND LIVES.

Boston louer to The Providence Journal.

The annual meeting of the American Society for Psychical Research was held this week and it cannot be said that its report of progress was very encouraging. At the risk of seeming invidious it is impossible to feel that there are more than two or three men at most who are active in the society, who have the breadth and grasp necestary to make their work of any particular effect or value. There has been a good deal of puttering during the past year, and the society has accumulated a large number of statistics which, if not valueless, are so near it that the difference is not worth noting. It is always unface to the providence is not most wonderful conting in comparison with his fancy and play of ideas.